Interview with Ms. Caroline Schulz Service

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training Foreign Affairs Oral History Program

Foreign Service Spouse Series

CAROLINE S. SERVICE

Interviewed by Jewell Fenzi

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SERVICE: I'd like to talk a little about Peking when we lived there.

Q: That's exactly what I'd love to hear.

SERVICE: It was a fascinating place to be.

Q: Now at what time was this?

SERVICE: 1935 to 1937. We were there when the Japanese came in.

Q: So, actually your husband had been a China specialist before that?

SERVICE: Jack was born in China. He and I were classmates in college. We both went to Oberlin.

Q: Yes.

SERVICE: And then he passed the Foreign Service exams in 1933. It was the same year that U. Alexis Johnson and John Emmerson and Ed Rice and many of our other friends did. But there were no appointments made because of the Depression. So, as we wanted

very much to get married, Jack went out to China, where he had grown up, to get a job. He went into the Consulate in Shanghai to see if there was anything going that he could do. Before long he was told that there was a clerkship open in Kunming which, in those days, we called Yunnanfu. (I am going to use these two names interchangeably.) Would Jack take this job? He was overjoyed as it would pay $1,800 a year and we could get married. I went out to Shanghai with Jack's mother, and from there I traveled to Haiphong, on my own, by ship. This trip took about ten days by coastal steamer. We went through a typhoon and had to stay anchored at Hoihow, on the island of Hainan, for about three days.

The ship arrived at Haiphong shortly before four on the afternoon of November 9, which was a Thursday. Jack, who had come down from Yunnanfu, was waiting for me. We had to rush right up to the Hotel de Ville to be married by the Mayor of Haiphong before 5 p.m. because a three-day holiday was starting the next day. I might add that we had both had to do a great deal of preparatory paper work in order to be married under French law. The brief ceremony was in French, of which we understood little (we had an interpreter), and then we were handed our official marriage document which had room for the names of 12 children! We shook hands all round and that was that. Our witnesses were a Mr. and Mrs. Page, almost the only Americans living in Haiphong at that time. I don't know how this was arranged. Afterwards we had champagne at the home of the Pages and then went out to dinner. But before this we had sent cables to our parents that we were married. And I had Jack put the wedding ring on my finger. I had brought it with me from Washington. There was no place in the civil service for the ring. Jack was just 24 and I was still 23.

We spent that night in the flat of one of the other Americans in Haiphong: a bachelor who was away. He and Mr. Page worked for some oil company, maybe Standard Oil. I'm not sure.

The next morning, very early, Jack and I took the French train for the three-day trip to Yunnanfu. The train ran only during the day which meant that we had to spend two nights in small, primitive railway hotels. Lunch was served on the trains. The scenery, as we rose

from the coastal flats of Indo-China to the 6,000-foot altitude of Kunming, was spectacular. But as the train — a narrow-gauge, open-windowed, uncomfortable wooden vehicle — chugged slowly through and up and over the landscape, I'm afraid I didn't appreciate it as much as I should have. I know that I thought I'd come to a wild, remote part of the world, and in many ways I had. We spent two years in Kunming, and then Jack was assigned to Peking for language study. In the fall of 1935, the Foreign Service appointments had finally come through, and Jack was Unclassified C at $2,500 a year. That was wonderful. The first step in the Foreign Service.

Q: This was 1935.

SERVICE: Yes. Jack already spoke Chinese, but he didn't read or write it so he went to language school and then studied Chinese with teachers for two years. Ed Rice was also a beginning language student at this time, and Jim Penfield was finishing his course.

Living in Peking was an Arabian Nights experience. In retrospect I realize that I never heard anyone mention that we might be at the end of an era. Nobody was worried. We all thought we were going to go on living in China forever. Then the Japanese War started on July 7, 1937. But I'll talk a bit more about Peking if you want.

Q: I'd love you to.

SERVICE: We got to Peking in early December, Jack and I, from Yunnanfu, with our baby, Virginia, who was just about five months old. A few days after we arrived there were so-called student uprisings. (Harbingers of things to come, but I certainly did not know that.) The students were protesting the Japanese encroachment on Chinese territory which had been going on for some years. Japan now controlled Manchuria and was making further demands on the Chinese.

At that time there were two capitals in China, at Peking and at Nanking. Nanking was the official capital, but as all the embassies had residences in Peking, and as foreigners much

preferred living in Peking, most of the families just lived there. And most of the embassy personnel too. The Ambassador spent some time in each city, and there was a small permanent staff in Nanking. But as far as diplomatic life went it was in Peking. Foreigners still did pretty much what they wanted in China in those days.

Nelson T. Johnson was the Minister when we arrived, but he was very soon given the rank of Ambassador. His wife, Jane Johnson, everyone loved dearly. She was marvelous to all of us. The number two was Frank Lockhart, and his wife, Ruby, whom nobody called Ruby. They were very formal, but they were angels. Mr. Lockhart was one of the kindest men I've ever known. And Mrs. Lockhart was interested in everybody — they were wonderful to all of us. And then there was Larry Salisbury who was a Japan language man. He was a bachelor and he had his mother with him. There was Bob Smyth, also a bachelor. All these people lived in the Embassy compound, adjacent to the Chancery and next door to the Marine Guard Compound.

Then in San Kuan Miao, an old temple compound that the American Embassy owned, there were Mariann and Edmund Clubb, Harriet and Paul Meyer, Elsie and Cecil Lyon, George Merrell, and Phil Sprouse. And then there were the language students, Jim Penfield, Ed Rice, and later Troy Perkins. Besides the Embassy families some others who became life-long friends were Sam and Belle Griffith, Bob and Cary Luckey, and Ed and Flip Sutherland.

Sam was a Marine language student. He and Belle were the most glamorous couple I've ever known. Bob Luckey was stationed with the Marine Guard. Ed Sutherland was an Army language student. The year I lived in New Delhi he and his wife, Flip, lived just two doors away from me. It was Flip who took Philip to the Delhi Gymkhana Club where he learned how to swim. Ed was the Military Attach# at the Embassy.

Because we had children, and because Charles Millet, another first year language student, and his wife had children, we two families had to make our own living arrangements. For

the first two months we were in Peking we lived in the Lyons' house, which they kindly loaned to us while they were on leave. This was a perfect arrangement for us — we followed an old Peking custom of “boarding with the cook,” and the amah who had taken care of Alice Lyon now took care of Ginny. When Elsie and Cecil came back from leave they brought a nurse with them and the amah stayed with us. Later, when Bob was born, the amah's daughter came to help out. I cannot stress enough how good our Chinese servants were to us.

When we needed a place of our own, Jack and I rented a house out near Coal Hill, right across the street from the north wall of the Forbidden City. The house is still there, and when we go back to Peking Jack and I always take a look at the outside.

Q: How nice.

SERVICE: The house is now lived in by some official. It was owned in those days by a German businessman and his wife. Jack's brother Dick had gotten a job in the Consulate in Foochow. Their father had died in September of 1935 and their mother had gone to live with Dick. Shortly after that Dick found out that he had tuberculosis of the intestines.

Q: Oh, dear.

SERVICE: So Dick and his mother came to live with us in Peking, and Dick spent about a month in the Peking Union Medical College hospital undergoing tests. Grace Service, of course, was with us. My mother-in-law and I had a fine relationship. In the spring the doctor advised us to move to the Western Hills to escape from the dust of Peking. We rented a good-sized house, sublet the house in town, and all moved out to the Western Hills, taking the servants with us. Mrs. Service hired a male nurse for Dick who just stayed in bed all day. Today no one stays in bed, but Dick made a perfect recovery. Jack's Chinese teacher came out every day on the bus and went home in the late afternoon by bus. We stayed at the Western Hills from the middle of May until the first of October.

I'd become pregnant at the Western Hills and was expecting my second child in February. Elsie Lyon was expecting her second child in January. About Christmas time two other very pregnant Foreign Service wives had come to Peking to have their babies. (I think their names were Betty Allen and Sandra Grummon.) We made a picturesque foursome, all of us in Chinese embroidered Mandarin coats worn over our clothes! Red ones, as I remember.

Q: Did you have Chinese doctors? Did you have the babies at home?

SERVICE: No, I had a Canadian doctor at the PUMC [Interview

So, he came to Peking and was in the Rockefeller Hospital, the PUMC [Peking Union Medical College]. Actually my first child, Ginny, born in Yunnanfu, was delivered by an English midwife in a Church of England missionary hospital. But that's another story.

I'm trying to think about the summer of 1937. My parents were going to come visit us and for some reason we had to give up the house at Coal Hill. We were able to rent a house in the south Compound of the PUMC from a doctor and his wife who were going on home leave. This was in June. Dick Service was now well so he and his mother moved, I think, to Peitaiho, a summer resort on the Gulf of Chihli, north of Tientsin.

On the Fourth of July the Johnsons gave a big reception. Afterwards some of us went dancing at the Peking Hotel roof garden. And then, as it was very hot, Jack and some others went swimming in the San Kuan Miao swimming pool. Jack had a slight sore throat but neither of us though anything of it. Elsie Lyon had taken a house at Chinwangtao for the summer, as she had the year before, when Mariann Clubb and I had gone to visit her. Elsie and Mariann and I became close friends in Peking. This year I was going to take Ginny with me and I planned to meet my parents who were coming to China on an army transport which would dock at Chinwangtao. My father had just retired.

On the 5th Jack really felt terrible and I called the Marine doctor to come see him. The doctor said that Jack did have a very bad sore throat but he did not think it serious enough for me to cancel my plans. So on the morning of the 6th Ginny and I took the train for Chinwangtao, leaving the baby, Bob, in the care of the amah, and Jack in bed feeling rotten. That night the Japanese attacked some Chinese troops at the Marco Polo Bridge near Peking, and the Sino-Japanese war had begun. Later I had a telegram from Mariann Clubb saying that Jack had scarlet fever and had been taken to the PUMC Hospital. There was nothing I could do. The trains had stopped running so of course I could not get back to Peking. I was sure that the baby would be all right, and I couldn't do anything for Jack. And my parents were arriving in a few days.

My parents arrived and by this time the trains had begun to run again. The best thing to do was to return to Peking on the first available train. In fact I think that we got a train the afternoon that mother and father arrived. At this point Elsie decided that she would go back to Peking too, to see Cecil. She would leave Alice and Lilla in Chinwangtao as she would be returning there in a few days.

That day we got as far as Tientsin. Passenger trains had to give way to troop trains — I suppose carrying Japanese troops. We managed to find a hotel where we could spend the night, and the next day Elsie, my parents, Ginny and I got to Peking. Cecil Lyon knew that I was arriving with my parents and he met us at the Water Gate station. When he saw Elsie he nearly had a fit. He said, “Elsie, what are you doing here?” She said, “I've come to see you!” And he said, “You've got to go right back to the children, nobody knows what's going to happen and you better” — and so on. So the next day Elsie returned to Chinwangtao, gathered up her children, and went to Japan where she stayed with her parents, Ambassador and Mrs. Grew.

Jack was recovering. This was the first year, I think, that antibiotics were being used for various diseases, so Jack's scarlet fever was quickly controlled and he suffered no long-lasting effects.

We could hear the fighting going on outside Peking. Rather, we could hear guns and cannon being fired. And after a few days, those of us who lived outside the Legation Quarter were told we would have to move into the Quarter. Shades of the Boxer Rebellion!

My mother, father, the children and I were billeted in the Lyons' house, where Jack and I had lived when we first were in Peking. I knew all the servants and Cecil was a wonderful host. Jack did not come with us. He had to recuperate at home.

As I recall it, we mostly just continued the usual life. We saw our friends, also in the Legation Quarter, had tea with each other and so on. I don't think that any of us had a feeling of danger. I don't know why. And after a few days we all moved back to our own houses.

The Japanese had taken over Peking. There was no fighting inside the city. The Chinese could not protect it, and so their troops just “drifted” away. The Japanese rode great big horses; that is, the officers did. Troops were stationed here and there, and we foreigners were rather circumspect in public. We didn't want any “incidents.” There was a kind of eeriness about it. Many of the troops were quartered in the grounds of the Temple of Heaven. Have you been to Peking?

Q: No, I haven't.

SERVICE: Well, the Temple of Heaven is situated in a huge big park in what used to be called the Chinese City, south of the Tarter City, which to us was the main part of Peking. My father wanted very much to see the Temple of Heaven. Colonel, later General, Stilwell was the military attache. Father went around to his office to see if he could help with this. And Colonel Stilwell was able to get a pass, or a request, which would allow Colonel

Schulz and his wife to go see the Temple of Heaven. I went along and we showed our passes or our papers to the Japanese armed guards. They looked at the passes and after awhile, sure enough, they let us into the large park. We were able to walk slowly and to take our time seeing the temple. I think that a guard must have accompanied us. After about an hour we left. My father was very pleased to be able to do this. I don't recall how much other sight-seeing we did, but I do know that my mother went shopping, and she was able to get a number of things — some chairs in particular — which she actually was able to get shipped home.

I did not have any feeling that I would soon be leaving Peking. Then in mid-August there was a terrible bombing episode in Shanghai. By this time the Japanese had taken Shanghai, or were in the process of taking it, and some of their warships were anchored in the Whangpoo River, just off the Shanghai Bund. The Chinese sent planes on a bombing mission against these ships. But the bombs fell short and landed on the Bund instead. Especially hard hit was the Palace Hotel. This was when Bob Reischauer was mortally wounded. His brother, Ed, many years later became Ambassador to Japan. Ed was our classmate at Oberlin, and Bob had graduated from Oberlin just a few years before us.

The war was beginning to spread to other parts of China. By early September we were beginning to think that the Embassy families might have to leave Peking. I could hardly believe this because everything around Peking seemed relatively quiet. We were all living much as we had been, giving small dinner parties and so on. Of course the Japanese were in Peking, but we didn't bother them and they didn't bother us.

Q: I was just thinking this was four years before Pearl Harbor because this was 1937.

SERVICE: Yes.

Q: So there was really no feeling of hostility between...

SERVICE: Well, I don't know how the Japanese felt. They never smiled at us, but then people always say that nobody smiles at them. There were Japanese guards all around, but foreigners didn't seem to be threatened.

Q: You came and went and lived as you usually did.

SERVICE: But finally we were told that the women and children would have to leave Peking. We left on the 18th of September on a special train. Mostly Americans I think, but I'm not sure about this. Jane Johnson had already gone ahead to Japan with her children to set a good example for us. Mrs. Lockhart, Mrs. Salisbury, and Billie Millet and her two boys were on the train with us. These people I remember particularly because we all went by ship to Japan and spent some time in Kyoto and later in Tokyo. Later we were given the choice of staying in Japan or going home to America. As I hadn't been home for four years, and had my parents with me, I felt that if I were going to travel with my two small children that I'd better go home with my parents and spend some time with them. I wonder what they thought about this arrangement? But at that time I didn't think of this. Mrs. Lockhart went home, and Ruth Smith went home with her two daughters. Ruth had been in Tsinan where Horace was consul. The wives who did not go home were soon allowed to return to China. So it would have been better if Mrs. Lockhart, Ruth Smith, and I had not gone home. Jack was transferred to Shanghai in January '38. But the State Department would not let those of us who had gone home return to China right away.

Finally in April of '38, the State Department said we could go back to China. I rushed around and got my passport fixed up and so on. Mrs. Lockhart and Ruth Smith and her two daughters were on the same ship, one of the Dollar Line. We were all going to Shanghai and we were very happy. Everyone else had been back in China for months.

And we were to live in Shanghai from May, 1938 until November, 1940: two and a half years. Then the children and I had to go home again because by this time there was a feeling in the air that there was going to be terrible trouble with the Japanese.

So I left China in November 1940 with my two children, Virginia and Robert — Robert, by the way is in the Foreign Service — and came home. And I never got back to China until 1971 when Jack and I went to China as guests of the Chinese government in September, 1971. We went back to Peking and we stayed in the Peking Hotel where Jack and I had gone dancing so many years ago. I felt as though I were in a dream. In 1971 the Legation Quarter looked much as it had so many years ago, except that there were no foreigners around. San Kuan Miao was still there. Now it has been replaced by new buildings. The American Embassy compound is now an official guest house. Sixteen years ago, in 1971, Peking did not look too different from the way I remembered it, except that the great city walls around the Tartar City were gone, but not those around the Forbidden City. But there were two of me walking around the streets of Peking — my 1937 self, and my 1971 self.

Q: Did you know Chinese too?

SERVICE: No.

Q: You know, I've only been in one country where I couldn't read the street signs — Russia. How do you manage day-to-day?

SERVICE: Because when we lived in Peking the main street signs were in English too. Morrison Street, the main shopping street, was named for an early missionary and Chinese scholar.

Q: So you had no problem.

SERVICE: In the Legation Quarter there was no problem. And of course, don't forget, I had a husband who not only spoke Chinese but who learned to read it. I'm a very poor linguist, but I did learn enough to get around. Even when I go to China today I can go shopping by myself, I can get around by bus. And you can always point and make gestures. I'm not

really timid about such things. And often Chinese will know a little English, a few words. I've found people want to be helpful.

Q: This was in the days before language lessons at FSI so did you have a tutor or did you just pick it up as you went along?

SERVICE: Just picked it up. I tried to learn some Chinese in Yunnanfu — I don't know if I'm talking too long or too much.

Q: No. Oh, no.

SERVICE: Because I'd like to go back to Kunming. In the spring of 1935 — no, I'll go back to 1933 and our second wedding. After our marriage in Haiphong, and the long train ride to Yunnanfu, we were married, again, by a young Presbyterian missionary minister: Arthur Romig. He told us it was his first wedding, so we were one up on him! This wedding was under American auspices and the vice-consul, Charles Shadrach Reed II, was the consular witness. We were living in China under the unusual doctrine of extraterritoriality! Goodness, what a word. We were not subject to Chinese laws or jurisdiction.

But now, on to the spring of 1935. We began to hear many rumors brought in from Chinese around the countryside and from missionaries who lived away from Kunming, that the communists had started their “long march.” It wasn't called that until much later, of course.

Q: They didn't know it was going to be a long march?

SERVICE:I'm not sure. They were coming around and through the mountainous countryside of southern China trying to escape the encirclement of Chiang Kai-shek's troops. People were afraid of them because they didn't know what to expect. We were told that if they came towards Yunnanfu that the women and children, the foreign ones, would have to leave. I was always leaving, having to leave, wherever we lived in China.

In mid-April we were told that the communists were approaching Kunming. I was expecting my first baby in mid-July so I had to think of taking my collected baby things with me — just in case I couldn't get back to Kunming. Jack's mother and my mother had sent baby clothes, and we had ordered some things from Montgomery Ward. So I packed a trunk with baby things and with my own clothes.

Then on the 29th of April we were told that the communists weren't coming towards Kunming! They wanted to cross the southern-most loop of the Yangtze and would bypass Kunming. We lived in the English Mission Compound at this time, which had a lovely garden. As the day was beautiful I decided to spend it sitting and reading in the garden. The unpacking could wait until the next day.

Cy Carney, the British vice-consul, came to dinner that evening, and for some reason he decided to spend the night with us. I don't know why. Maybe there was a feeling of unease around the city. About one a.m. on the 30th there was a great pounding on the compound gate and the gateman shouted up to Jack that there was a messenger from the Consulate. Arthur Ringwalt, then the American vice-consul, lived at the north end of the city. We were at the south end. Jack went down to the gate and in a few minutes came back and told me that the communists were approaching the city, that all the women and children would have to leave on the morning train at 7 o'clock. The French were taking care of these arrangements. Jack roused Carney — well he must have been wakened by all the pounding and noise and shouting — and the two of them dressed quickly and went off into the city. Jack was to notify the Americans, and Carney, after going to the British consulate, went off to notify British nationals. I got dressed and did a little more packing. Thank heaven I had not unpacked the day before. The servants were all up and the cook was getting together food for the trip. I don't think that I appreciated, at least not at that time, all the devoted service our Chinese servants gave to us.

At seven in the morning we were gathered at the station. It was pouring rain. I don't know how many women and children there were. I just know that we all got onto the train, got

seats, and settled ourselves for a long day's journey. As the train pulled out we waved through the streaming windows at the men we were leaving behind.

There was one very pregnant missionary woman on the train. One of the English midwives was traveling with her in case her baby should be born before she got to Hong Kong, her destination. And there was at least one man traveling with us: a famous American naturalist, Dr. Joseph Rock. He worked for the National Geographic and for the Smithsonian, too, I think, collecting specimens of plants, especially azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of the species of these plants that we have in this country today were first introduced by Joseph Rock. He also had spectacular photographs of parts of China very few foreigners ever got to, such as the upper gorges of the Yangtze. Dr. Rock wanted to get valuable papers, pictures, and so on out of Kunming, which is why he was on this train.

The trip to Haiphong took the usual three days and two nights. Where all of us slept those two nights I do not remember. Some people must have stayed on the train because there weren't that many train-hotel accommodations. I remember that I had a bed, perhaps because I was pregnant.

I spent two weeks in Haiphong and then somehow or other I got word from Jack that I could return to Yunnanfu! The communists did not take the city and they were moving towards the Yangtze crossing. So back we went to Kunming. The men who had stayed behind spent a lot of their time at the little French Club playing bridge when they weren't in their offices or out trying to get information. This was our first encounter, you might say, or rather non-encounter with the people who were going to rule China some day.

Q: We're you frightened during this time?

SERVICE: No, we weren't frightened. Do you think it was because we were stupid or because we thought foreigners were always to be protected?

Q: I certainly don't think it was stupidity by any means. I think it was just — correct me if I'm wrong — I think it was the attitude of the times. We felt we were perhaps not — inviolable is maybe too strong a word. But it just never occurred to us.

SERVICE: I think we did feel we were special people. I've been frightened in my life, but never when we lived abroad.

Q: Was it because you were a diplomat or because you were American?

SERVICE: No, because we were foreigners.

Q: Because you were foreigners.

SERVICE: Actually the British probably had the best claim to being special people because they had been out in the Far East so much longer than we had been. And so many things we did were the way the British did them.

Q: Oh, and what was your relationship with the Chinese? Did you entertain them?

SERVICE: My dear, we didn't know any Chinese socially.

Q: You didn't know any Chinese?

SERVICE: The only Chinese we came in contact with were the people in the office. Now I am talking about Kunming, especially; Kunming was a two-man office, a vice-consul, first Charles Shadrach Reed II, and then Arthur Ringwalt, and Jack who was the clerk. I think that the second year we were in Kunming he was called a vice-consul, non-career. Jack tells me that there were two Chinese in the office, an interpreter and a typist, as well as a sort of office boy.

Q: I have a question. For years and years we've been debating the value of representational entertaining. If you didn't see and know Chinese socially then the men got all of their information about the local conditions from whom, from where?

SERVICE: Well, obviously, they did get some information from the Chinese in the office. Also in Yunnanfu there was a French Consul General and there was a British Consul General. The French were the people who probably had the best sources because Yunnan was a French sphere of influence. The railroad was run by the French. The three consulates exchanged whatever necessary information they got. The Customs Commissioner was American. This, you see, is what people forget. There were foreigners running important Chinese government offices. The Customs Commissioner was an American, the Postal Commissioner was a Frenchman, and the man who was the head of the Salt Gabelle — which means salt tax — was a Corsican, also French. They got a lot of information from the Chinese who worked for them and they exchanged information. Smuggling was a big thing in Kunming in those days. And I think it was the main source of revenue for the local warlord, Lung Yun. In the spring the fields outside the city were waving fields of opium poppies, beautiful to see. The poppies were mostly white, but there were some pink and some lavender. I don't recall any red ones. This was a marvelous color display outside the city and in a few empty lots inside the city. It was estimated by foreigners that about 50% of the population of Yunnanfu smoked opium when they could. Our Number One Boy smoked opium. I think that the cook did too. And poor people used it for medicine. Opium was cheaper than tobacco, and certainly cheaper than medicine. A little opium smoke blown into the face of a sick or crying baby would pacify it.

Kunming was a poor, backward, medieval city in the days when we lived there. I've said that when I went back to Peking in '71 much of it still looked the same to me. Shanghai looked very much the same because it is a big foreign city and the buildings are still there. Of all the places I knew before in China, Yunnanfu, now Kunming, has changed the most. It's quite a pretty city now, and of course, the surroundings have always been beautiful.

There is a large lake on the adjacent plain, and then hills, low mountains really, are around the plain.

There were just two cars. One belonged to the Governor of the province, Lung Yun, and the other belonged to the French Consul General. But as there were no usable roads the cars couldn't go anywhere, and inside the city the streets were mostly too narrow for cars. We didn't even know there was such a place as the Stone Forest where all the tourists now go. If you wanted to go to Dali, which was about 200 miles away, you had to go by pack horse or sedan chair. Some missionaries lived in remote places, and information would trickle through to Kunming from them. But you could not travel except under ancient conditions. Kunming had an American Consulate mainly because it was too far from Canton to be administered from the Consulate General there.

[Jack Service comes in with some coffee.]

SERVICE: Jack, how did you get information Yunnanfu if you wanted to know things that were going on? How did you find out things since we didn't have any Chinese social friends?

J.SERVICE: There were newspapers, Chinese newspapers, Chinese rumors and gossip and the post office and so on got information about what [was] happening.

SERVICE: Yes, well I said that. Talbott got stuff from the customs people and so on.

Q: See, I was questioning the validity of all the representational entertaining that “we” did, if you managed to get information in China without it.

J SERVICE: We didn't have any representation.

Q: No, in those days I suppose there was none. I'm really quite fascinated about the traveling around — no automobiles, how did you travel?

J SERVICE: We took the train to Indochina or we didn't travel.

SERVICE: If we went on a picnic on a Sunday to a temple — there were some very old and beautiful temples in the surrounding hills — we walked, or went in rickshaws, or some of the men rode horses. And once in awhile I used a sedan chair. This you will hardly believe.

Q: Oh, wonderful.

SERVICE: The Consulate had a sedan chair that was for the use of the top man. In this case a vice-consul! The chair bearers were the consulate coolies who took the notes or chits around when we wrote to our friends to ask them to dinner or lunch and so on. We had no telephones, no plumbing, no electricity. We were living in a very primitive way.

Q: But you had a good time.

SERVICE: We had a wonderful time, but we couldn't have managed without our Chinese servants. If we wanted a bath we told the bath coolie, or rather the water coolie, at what time we wanted the bath and to have the water ready. He'd fire up a boiler of some sort, get the water hot, and bring it to our bathroom and pour it into the tub. We did have a bathtub. And the water could actually run out of the tub because we lived on the second floor of the consulate during the first year in Kunming, and there was a regular tub outlet with a plug. When the plug was pulled out the water ran down through a hole in the floor. Where it went from there I don't know.

Q: No questions asked.

SERVICE: Dinners and luncheon parties were the usual form of entertainment. We all entertained each other all the time. If Jack and Charles Reed and I were all going out to the same dinner I would often use the sedan chair and Jack and Charles would either walk or take rickshaws. There were two men carrying the chair and a man in front carrying

a lantern who would shout out, “Make Way, Make Way, for the Great People!” I didn't understand this, but Jack told me what the man was saying. Every so often one of the carriers would switch with the man carrying the lantern. I felt as though I were in some medieval play.

Q: When you did these evacuations, if you want to call them that, did a servant go with you to help with the children?

SERVICE: No, except when we left Peking our number one boy did go to Tientsin with us to help put us on the ship for Japan. I had my mother and father with me and the two children — Bob just seven months old. Chen was marvelous. He spoke English and was an enormous help. When I left Shanghai in 1940 the children and I just got on the ship at Shanghai. The “Monterey”.

Q: Oh,yes. The Matson Line.

SERVICE: And then after we left Shanghai we went to Australia because there were already passengers on board who had booked for Australia. Noel Coward was one of them. He was going to Australia in connection with some war work. We went first to Manila where we picked up more women and children, and then we sailed down through the Sulu Sea and so on to Port Moresby where we took on a pilot to guide the ship along the coast of Australia inside the Great Barrier Reef. We spent five days in Sydney Harbor and then came home via Wellington, Fiji, Samoa, and Honolulu. A wonderful cruise.

Q: Never knowing what was...

SERVICE: Never knowing...

Q: ...what was brewing.

SERVICE: And everybody was saying oh, we'd be back in China in six months, or we'd be back in one year, but of course we weren't. It was thirty-one years before I saw China again.

Q: So then you went back to Washington?

SERVICE: No. My family lived in Berkeley. When my parents retired from the army they moved here to Berkeley and I came and lived with them for five years. How they stood it I will never know. We just took it for granted.

Q: You had three children then?

SERVICE: No, two. Philip was born at the end of the war in Washington. Ginny and Bob went to John Muir School in Berkeley. I don't know how I would have managed without my family. Jack could send me $100 a month and I gave $50 to my parents for room and board and laundry and goodness knows what — everything else, and I kept $50 for whatever — clothes and miscellaneous. In those days there was no allowance for separated families. But after about two years we got a family allowance that came through the State Department. I felt rich because I got an extra $180 a month. It was wonderful.

Q: $180 a month extra.

SERVICE: Yes. Wonderful. Jack came home twice during those years. He was transferred from Shanghai to Chungking in the spring of '41, and then he came home on leave in December 1942.

Q: Oh, by that time the war had started.

SERVICE: The war had started, right. Pearl Harbor was 13 months after I left Shanghai. Then Jack came home again in November of 1944 when General Stilwell was recalled.

And I went east then, to Washington to meet him, and I got pregnant then. Philip was born the next August on the day the atom bomb fell on Hiroshima.

Q: Oh, for Heaven sakes.

SERVICE: And my parents were in Washington. They had been to my father's 50th West Point reunion. My father was sitting beside my bed when I came out of the anesthesia. He was reading the Evening Star, which had great big headlines about the atom bomb. Do you know what my thought was? I had spent nine months making one human being, and here were 100,000 (the number then given) wiped out.

Q: In just a few seconds.

SERVICE: It just made the most lasting impression on me.

Q: Has it made you a pacifist really?

SERVICE: I'm not sure. I don't think of myself as a pacifist, but I think wars are crazy.

Q: Anti-nuclear or...

SERVICE: I'm anti-nuclear weapons. I think that some day humans have got to decide not to kill each other off. You don't want to get me started on this subject because I think that what is wrong with the human race is that we want to kill each other so much. Or at least people want to kill other people who aren't like them. You have only to read the papers any day of the week to see this. The two most divisive things in the world are religion and race. Most religions preach peace and good will, and yet people continue to kill each other in the name of religion. Well, that's a subject that is very close to my heart.

Q: I think it a very profound reaction to the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

SERVICE: August 6, 1945, was quite a day in our lives.

Q: Of course it was.

SERVICE: Now, I don't know whether you want this. Jack also went to the Grand Jury that day in connection with the Amerasia Case in the summer of '45. And he got a completely clean bill of health, 20 to 0 in Jack's favor. He knew that Philip was born and then he went to the Grand Jury.

Also the man who was in charge of the Manhattan Project was Major General, later Lt. General, Leslie Richard Groves. I had known Dick Groves since I was thirteen years old when he was a 1st Lt. in the Third Engineer Regiment commanded at that time by my father. And I thought — how could Dick Groves do this to me? Of course he didn't do it to me. But he was somebody I knew well — I had done babysitting for the Groves' baby at Schofield Barracks — and he was connected with the bomb. It was a very personal reaction.

When Philip was six weeks old Jack left for Japan. He and John Emmerson and Max Bishop were to be assistants to George Atcheson who was to be the political adviser to Gen. MacArthur. The war with Japan had ended a few days after the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki — at the end of that week, I think. I know that I was still in the hospital. John Emmerson and Max Bishop were the Japan men on George Atcheson's staff and Jack was the China man.

Also, I think, Jack was sent to Japan to get him away from Washington and out of the public eye after the events of that summer. So once again we were separated. I stayed in Chevy Chase with the three children. We had rented a house between Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues. Ginny and Bob went to Rosemary grade school.

This is when Dorothy Emmerson and I became such close friends. We had met during the summer, but it was not until our husbands went off to Japan that our friendship grew and flourished, at first, largely by phone. Philip was a colicky baby and so I was often up with

him at night. Somehow I found out that Dorothy often ironed late at night. So sometimes she and I would talk on the phone — she ironing with one hand, and I stuffing a bottle of milk into Philip's mouth with one hand. Dorothy and I still do a lot of phone talking, she from Los Altos Hills, and I from Berkeley-Oakland.

Just before Thanksgiving General [Patrick Jay] Hurley resigned from being Ambassador to China with a great blast at the China Hands who, he said, had sabotaged his mission to China. He picked especially on Jack and George Atcheson although neither of them had had anything to do with China for many months. Hurley returned home and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings. The sort of thing you see on TV today. Then there wasn't any TV.

I first learned of Hurley's blast from a telephone call and then from the radio and the papers. And I expected and hoped that Jack would be called home, but he was not.

When the hearing started I went to as many of the sessions as I could, but it always meant getting a kind friend to take care of Philip for several hours. Dorothy Emmerson, my sister-in-law, Helen Service, Peggy Reid, and others helped me out. Hurley's charges were refuted. I believe that Secretary of State Byrnes testified.

After the hearings were over, I phoned the company that had the stenographic contract for the committee — how I found out the name I have no idea — and asked if I could buy a copy of the transcript. The company insisted on giving me a copy — would not let me pay for it. This was a very thoughtful and unexpected kindness. And then I was able to send the transcript to Tokyo with Jack (George) Kerr. I met him at dinner at Dorothy Emmerson's and he offered his services as he was going to Tokyo. Years later, in Berkeley, we became great friends.

When Jack went to Japan we had no car. With a new baby it was very difficult to shop, to go anywhere or to take the children anywhere. Peggy Reid, the wife of one of our wonderful Oberlin friends, John Reid, said that one of their neighbors had a 12-year old

Cadillac coupe that he would sell for $200! I bought it and it made all the difference in my Washington life. Ginny and Bob and I all fitted easily into the broad seat — no bucket seats in those days — and Philip could be put on the wide shelf behind the seat. It was perfect.

The older children were so helpful with Philip. They could baby-sit with him except at night when I could get a regular baby-sitter if I went out. When I left Washington in April, '46, to go to Japan, I thought, I sold that marvelous Cadillac — the only one we've ever owned — for $200, just what I paid for it. So my winter's transportation cost me just the gas — I got about 7 or 8 miles to the gallon — and the insurance.

Either before I left Washington, or shortly after the children and I arrived in Berkeley, word came from Jack that he was in an army hospital in Tokyo. Infectious hepatitis. Jack spent four months in the hospital, so my parents had the children and me back again while the Department decided what to do next with Jack. Our household belongings spent those months on a dock or in a warehouse in New York. I don't know where.

Sometime during the summer, Jack was transferred from Tokyo to Wellington where he would be First Secretary, which at that time was the number two man in the Legation there. Jack's orders were for him to come to this country for a short leave, pick up the children and me, and sail for New Zealand. Jack came home on a refrigerator ship. We made a quick trip to Claremont to see his mother, and then we sailed from San Francisco about the first of October on the “Monterey” — the same ship that had brought the children and me home from Shanghai in 1940! It had been a troop ship during the intervening years and was still fitted out as a troop ship. All five of us were in one cabin with six bunks in two tiers. Four of us took four bunks, the upper two in each tier being used for the excess baggage. Philip slept in a Playpen on the floor. It was a fine trip, a second south sea island “cruise.”

When we were first in Wellington, Avra Warren was the Minister. Later Robert M. Scotten came and Wellington was raised to an Embassy. Between Mr. Warren's departure and Mr. Scotten's arrival Jack was Charg# for about seven months which was very nice for us. Also Jack was promoted to Class II and we thought all our troubles were behind us. Jack had gotten a double promotion from class 6 to class 4 in May, 1945, before the Amerasia Case broke. Then there was a restructuring of the Foreign Service grades when we were in Wellington, and Jack was put into class 3. Wellington was the calm before the storm which, of course, we did not know was coming.

For me it was the best post of our career. The war was over and after years of separation our family was together again. Our friends of those years, both Americans and New Zealanders, have remained our friends through all these years. The Diplomatic Corps was close-knit and friendly. We had a wonderful time. And this is where we first knew Lisa and Marshall Green. After the Greens left New Zealand Lisa and I began our “life-long” correspondence which is still going on today.

Two New Zealand couples who became close friends, George and Pat Laking, and Frank and Lyn Corner, later became ambassadors — the men — to Washington. And in our office there were the Beverstocks, the Watsons, the Seiberts, the Armie Lees, the Reddens, the Abbotts, the Fosters, the Daggetts, Anne Taylor who was Warrens secretary, and of course both the Scottens and the Warrens. Neither of the Warrens lived very long, but I saw Mary Warren and Anne Taylor when I lived in New Delhi. And Ann Scotten and we have been close friends through the years.

Wellington was a very happy place for Ginny and Bob. Ginny went to a private school for girls, and Bob went to one of the state schools. And he got a job delivering newspapers with one of the New Zealand boys who was in his class.

The mainstay of our lives was Ann Gane, now Ann Marsh, who came to live with us to be our housekeeper-cook. Mrs. Adams, the cateress, without whom none of us could have

given a big party, brought Ann to us. Ann had a daughter, Louise, who was just a year older than Philip, and the two of them were like a brother and sister. When Philip was 1-1/2 and Louise 2-1/2 I began taking them to a day nursery between the hours of 9 or 10 and 4. It was a perfect arrangement for both Ann and me. Of the children only Ginny came home to lunch each day. She and Ann became great friends.

Ann was just ten years younger than I so she was 26 when she came to us. Neither of us knew much about cooking so we pored over Fannie Farmer together and Ann became a first-rate cook. Later she worked for the Eltings, the Sidney Brownes, and the Haseltons. After that Ann came to this country, married an American, and had two sons. She and the grown sons live in New Zealand. Louise and her family live in this country. And Ann is still very close to us.

And I want especially to mention Gwynneth Hall, who was on the New Zealand staff of the Embassy. She was a great help with the political reporting as both Marshall Green and Armie Lee can testify to. Gwen Hall and Ann Gane have both visited us in Berkeley, as have other New Zealand friends. I often think how lucky we were to be sent to that friendly and beautiful country.

We left Wellington at the end of 1948, the children and I by ship and Jack by plane to Washington. He was assigned to one of the Foreign Service Promotion Boards, and after that to the Division of Foreign Service Personnel.

On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China from Tiananmen — the Gate of Heavenly Peace — in Peking. And the “Who Lost China?” frenzy began. China was never ours to lose.

In February 1950, Jack and the children and I left Washington for India. Jack was to be Consul General in Calcutta. En route we visited my family in Berkeley, and Jack made a quick side trip to see his mother in Claremont.

It was while we were in Berkeley with my parents that McCarthy gave his famous — maybe I should say infamous — speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, about card-carrying communists in the State Department. When I think of McCarthy the one word to describe him that comes to my mind is “Yahoo.” McCarthy had a list of over 100 names, so he said, of people in the State Department who were “communists,” or “card-carrying communists.” He gave no names, but each description of a “subversive person” had a number and a description. None of the descriptions fitted Jack.

Jack phoned the State Department to ask what we should do. Should he come back to Washington? We were booked on a freighter out of Seattle bound for Madras on March 11. The Department said that Jack was not on McCarthy's list and that we should continue to India, which we did.

On March 11 we sailed for a month long trip to India via Japan and the Philippines. The passage across the north Pacific at that time of year was stormy. I had developed an abscessed tooth in Seattle, just before we sailed. We were staying with my oldest sister and all I had time to do was go to her dentist long enough to get a penicillin shot. The dentist gave me some penicillin ampules for injections that I was to administer myself for several days. I got rid of the abscess pains in my jaw, but came out in terrible hives.

About halfway across the ocean the radio operator came to our cabin one evening and said to Jack that the news was talking about a man named Service that McCarthy was after. McCarthy was saying that Service had “lost China” and so on.

So Jack rushed up to the radio room to listen and heard a lot more. The radio man had a friend in Los Angeles who was a ham operator, and our radio man was able to get more information from him about what was going on in Washington.

The next day a cable came to the ship from the State Department telling Jack to return to Washington from Japan. We were given the option of my staying in Japan with the children, returning to Washington with Jack, or going on to India.

Jack and I decided that the sensible thing to do was for me to go on to India and get the children into school again. Also we thought that after a quick trip home to clear things up that Jack would fly out to New Delhi. He might even get there before the children and I would. In this same cable Jack's orders were changed from Calcutta to New Delhi where he would be political counselor in the Embassy.

The Tokyo Embassy sent people to meet us at Yokohama and Jack flew home that same evening. The children and I were put up in the Imperial Hotel while our ship was in port. And then on we sailed to Manila where we saw Ed and Mary Rice, to Cebu and Ilo Ilo, to Singapore, and finally to Madras where the Consul General and his wife met us.

After about three days in a hotel in Madras, we and our bags and trunks were put on an Air India flight for New Delhi. Jean Steeves met us at the airport. This was April 15, 1950. The next morning Hazel and Henri Sokolove came to take the children and me sightseeing around New Delhi. This was the beginning of our New Delhi year.

Q: I think the fact that — if I could back up just a moment so that anyone listening to this will know what we're talking about. You arrived in New Delhi thinking your husband would be along momentarily.

SERVICE: Yes.

Q: You had no home to go back to in Washington, you had three children with you, you had been transfered, while you were en route, from Calcutta to New Delhi.

SERVICE: Yes.

Q: Where was your furniture?

SERVICE: I don't know where my furniture was.

Q: That was probably the least of your worries.

SERVICE: I didn't know where the furniture was or where the car was or anything. But I got to New Delhi — flew from Madras where the ship docked — and everyone was absolutely marvelous to me. Loy Henderson was the ambassador. I spent a whole year less two weeks in New Delhi. Jack never got there.

Q: He never got there.

SERVICE: I could never have managed so well if Loy Henderson had not been so supportive. Peggy Parsons and Jeff Parsons were there. Jack was to take Jeff's place as Political Counselor. The Parsons were being transferred. Later he was Ambassador to Sweden. I was going to move into their house when they left. But in the meantime I was just put into another house next to John and Jean Steeves, who were wonderful to me.

Then Peggy, Peggy was simply marvelous. She said she'd take Ginny and Bob to Mussoorie to Woodstock School because she was going up to see her two daughters. And Philip was very sick with a sort of dysentery, and I just didn't want to leave him. An Indian doctor came to the house to treat him. Philip was not quite five years old.

When the Parsons left I moved into their house, which was partly furnished with government furniture. And then our furniture turned up from somewhere.

Q: Calcutta.

SERVICE: And the car appeared. The car was “special delivery,” almost. It was put on a fast train by the Indians and up it came. The Embassy was as amazed as I was because they had not asked for any special treatment.

Q: I just wanted to ask you. You know today we really do have what I fear must be called a cumbersome administrative section abroad. I think 30% of the people who are abroad are administrators who do housing, transportation, and so on. It sounds as if you were taken care of simply by the goodwill of your colleagues.

SERVICE: Absolutely. They were wonderful to me. There was an administrative officer, of course, and he was extremely helpful when I had a problem, as was the head Indian employee in that department. But everyone I came in contact with was helpful.

Q: That says something for the service in those days, doesn't it.

SERVICE: Yes. It was most supportive.

Mrs. Henderson was often away — in Kashmir or other places. So when Loy Henderson had a luncheon he would often call up one of the wives — his secretary would call — to act as his hostess at the luncheon. I was included in this list. It was a very kind thing for him to do as I didn't have any official standing at all.

I was soon invited to many Indian affairs because they saw that I was included in American functions, and so I was soon put on the diplomatic list and I was invited to many of the big events, nothing small, but when everyone was invited I was included.

Q: Because you expected Jack to follow you.

SERVICE: Because I expected Jack.

Q: But he never came.

SERVICE: Right, but he never got there. Everyone was more than helpful. Finally I decided that I was going to give a big party because I thought that Jack would get to Delhi by Christmas. He went through several more hearings in Washington and was always cleared. But that didn't make any difference. I think that by this time McCarthyism had become so all-pervasive that someone had to go.

Q: Why did they single him out of all the others? Because he was outspoken and stood by his...

SERVICE: No. Well because he had had a lot to do with the so-called “loss of China,” in quotes.

Q: Well, we know that's nonsense.

SERVICE: And the Amerasia thing was always in a way haunting him. But even without that the China Hands, as they were called — Edmund Clubb, John Carter Vincent, and John Davies were easy targets. John Davies was finally fired out-of-hand, I think, right after the election of 1954. John Carter Vincent and Edmund Clubb, being over 50, were forced into retirement. It was because of China. Because China had gone communist.

Q: As if it were their fault?

SERVICE: Yes. These people had “Lost China.” It was so crazy. You can just tear your hair sometimes. The ironic thing is that it was Nixon who finally got John Davies fired. Dulles was the Secretary of State. The Republican Administration was determined to get people out of the Foreign Service who had been in the China service. You can't say it was a plot; it's just thapolitically it was a good drum to beat. They wanted to show the public that Republicans weren't “soft on communism.”

Q: This was a great anti-communist moment in the country.

SERVICE: Yes. I don't know, Jewell, but it was as though the country was facing a great outside menace which was inside the country. It just drove people nuts to think that China was not pro-American anymore. But we were at fault too. We still say that nobody could go to China — Westerners. Actually western Europeans were going to China. The British were going to China, the French, and so forth. They all had embassies there. And the New Zealanders and the Australians, they had diplomatic relations with China. And the Canadians. But we did not want to have diplomatic relations with China except on our own terms. It was an internal public relations business. It was like a red flag to a bull to mention China except in pejorative terms.

Q: It sounds as though the whole thing were political because McCarthy and Nixon thought they needed it.

SERVICE: Yes, it was.

Q: They needed it for votes and for public support and what have you.

SERVICE: That's exactly right. McCarthy frightened Americans. He frightened the public. I was frightened. Now I'll tell you. I wasn't frightened in China. I wasn't frightened the year I spent alone in India. I wasn't frightened traveling around the world. But I was frightened by McCarthy. I thought what is he going to do to us? What is he going to do to our children?

Q: You know, we survived him.

SERVICE: Yes, we survived him.

Q: We really did. We all did, the country did.

SERVICE: We did survive, but at the time you don't know. When you yourself are personally involved you don't know what's going to happen to you.

And then Jack was fired. In December '51. But I think I ought to finish about India.

Q: Yes, finish about India.

SERVICE: Oh, Philip. Philip I sent to a little nursery school run by a Norwegian woman who was married to an Indian. In this little nursery school there were both the little Gandhi boys, the sons of Indira Gandhi and the grandsons of Prime Minister Nehru. Sanjay died tragically in an airplane accident, and Rajiv is now Prime Minister of India.

Rajiv had his sixth birthday while we were there. All the children in the nursery school were invited to his birthday party, along with their mothers. Mrs. Gandhi and her sons lived with her father, and Nehru came in and spoke with all of us — spoke with all the children. After the cake and ice cream we all went out on the lawn — I think not far from where Mrs. Gandhi was later assassinated — and there was a snake charmer, with his cobras and his “flute,” to entertain the children. The mothers too.

Q: How wonderful.

SERVICE: All these children, Indians and different foreigners, not just Americans by any means, were all sitting there in a circle watching the snake charmer. That was one of the things that made India a very unusual place. I liked India and I liked the Indians. I had a wonderful Indian neighbor family. Just a few days ago I had a letter from the wife, now a widow. Her friendship is still very important to me. And the history of India is fascinating.

Q: What year are we now, around 1950?

SERVICE: The year I spent in India was from April '50 to the end of March '51. Finally the State Department decided, knew, that Jack would not be getting to India. Hearings were still going on, and on. So it was decided to bring me home. Obviously I couldn't stay in Delhi “forever.”

I want to add a few words here about my New Delhi Year.

I've mentioned the faithful and unstinted service that our Chinese servants gave us. My Indian servants were equally helpful and considerate. All of them had worked for Peggy and Jeff Parsons and knew how to run a house. They must have wondered many times if the “memsahib's” husband would ever come, when their life as well as mine would return to normal.

The cook and the two bearers — John, Daniel, and Lawrence — were Christians. Then there were the sweeper, the gardener, and the gatekeeper. These men were Hindus. As far as I knew all of their families lived in the Servants' quarters at the far end of the garden. Sometimes those children and Philip would play together. Five mornings a week the number 2 bearer, Lawrence, would bicycle Philip to kindergarten and then fetch him home at noon.

If I went on a short trip, say to Agra, John and Lawrence took care of Philip. When I went to Mussoorie I usually took Philip with me. But if I left Philip at home I had absolute faith in their honesty and faithful care.

Because Jack and I were separated by circumstances over which we had no control, we received a separation allowance. I had no bank account in New Delhi. I suppose I could say that the Embassy was my bank. Every month I cashed a check for $400 which carried me through each month and paid for Ginny and Bob in Woodstock School. In 1950 there was no school allowance for children abroad.

So in April of '51, March 30 to be exact, I left New Delhi with Philip, but I left Ginny and Bob in Woodstock School in Mussoorie until the term ended in July. I could not have done that if the Embassy had not been wonderful. They said that when the term was over they would bring the children down to New Delhi, and then send them by train to Bombay to catch a ship for home. And they would send a bearer on the train with them. The Consul

General in Bombay at that time was Prescott Childs. He and his wife, Roberta, were good friends to us. Jack had replaced Prescott in Wellington. They took Ginny and Bob into their home and then put them on the ship for New York. Our dear New Zealand friends, Pat and George Laking loaned us their house. He became Ambassador to Washington later on and now he is Sir George Laking and she is Lady Laking. We have many dear New Zealand friends. In fact without friends I do not know how we would have managed. And our families too. And that year when Jack was alone in Washington two especially dear Foreign Service couples came to our help. Jack lived with Tony and Phyllis Freeman for months in their house in Georgetown. I sent most of my letters to Jack in care of Lisa Green, because I knew that she would find Jack wherever he was staying. Lisa went to many of the open hearings when Jack was testifying and wrote me in detail about them. Lisa and Marshall had been with us in New Zealand. And our sister-in-law Helen Service, Dick's wife — Dick was in Moscow at this time, but Helen and the children were in nearby Virginia — was always there to help Jack when she could.

Jack was fired on the 14th of December, 1951. Actually it came out on the 13th that he would be “terminated” the next day.

Q: Merry Christmas.

SERVICE: Yes. Merry Christmas. So that was that and then what to do. You know, that was it. We had no money, we had no outside resources at all. We were paid back what Jack had put into the pension fund. But early in January Jack got a letter from a man in New York, a Mr. Clement Wells, who had a steam trap business, and he offered Jack a job. It was a miracle to receive this letter.

Q: So, did you stay in Washington?

SERVICE: No, we moved to New York, to Kew Gardens in Queens. Actually the children and I stayed in Washington until the end of summer. Mr. Wells had Jack go to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for a few weeks to work on an assembly line to see how steam traps are

put together. There's a steam trap on the floor there. We use it as a doorstop. After Bethlehem, Jack moved to New York and went to work for Mr. Wells in the export side of the business. Mr. Wells was English and had come to this country long ago, and SARCO was his own company. While we were still in Washington, various friends took Jack in. He lived with our dear Oberlin friends, Persis and Bun Gladieux, and with some New Zealand friends, Denis and Patricia Dunlop, who were with the United Nations.

Then when it became time for the family to join him, Jack rented an apartment in the Bronx. It was owned by the Equitable Life Insurance Co. When the company found out who Jack was they returned the deposit check because they would not rent to us.

Q: What a dreadful time for you.

SERVICE: It was awful. I then knew how people felt who are dispossessed, or who face discrimination.

Q: Yes.

SERVICE: Jack was then able to rent an apartment in Kew Gardens. The SARCO office was in the Empire State Building and Jack rode the subway into 34th Street. He claims that in all the years he made this trip he never sat down on the subway when he was going to work! He did a lot of traveling, to Mexico, to Europe, for Mr. Wells, visiting companies that manufactured the SARCO steam traps under license, and meeting the company managers.

In the meantime, his lawyer, Ed Rhetts, had determined on the day Jack was fired that he'd take Jack's case through the courts to try to win a reversal of the State Department decision to fire Jack.

Q: Yes. Was anyone else fired?

SERVICE: John Davies was fired as I've mentioned before. And John Melby was fired. He had been one of the group that put out the “China White Paper” in 1950 I believe. This was authorized by the State Department, but that didn't keep John from being fired.

Q: Now did they all appeal this together, or did your husband do it on his own?

SERVICE: No, Jack alone, because later the State Department rules were changed. I believe that now anyone can be fired for almost any reason the Department chooses to give. Jack had been cleared and cleared, but he was the first one fired.

Q: Even though he had been cleared?

SERVICE: Yes. Jack had a legal case. And Ed Rhetts and some other lawyers who helped him — Jack Burling, Joe Rauh, and a man named Gardner, I think — gave help where they could. Finally the case reached the Supreme Court which accepted it. With our children we went to Washington in April, 1957, to hear Ed Rhetts argue the case before the Supreme Court. It was a solemn and moving occasion.

The decision was handed down on June 17, 1957, a Monday. The Supreme Court nearly always announces it decisions on a Monday. Ginny was going to the dentist to have a wisdom tooth out at two o'clock. About twenty minutes to two, just as we were leaving the apartment, the phone rang and some newspapermen said, “Your husband has just won his case in the Supreme Court. A unanimous decision.” I said, “What!?” I screamed, you see. The man wanted to know how to get hold of Jack, and I gave him the number at SARCO. And then I hung up and Ginny and I just looked at each other. I guess we must have hugged each other. I phoned the dentist to tell him we'd be a bit late, and then I called Jack, but I waited until I thought the news people had got to him. I'm trying to think where Bob was. I think he was driving west with some friends to get jobs in a packing firm in the State of Washington — fruit packing, the frozen variety. And Philip came home from PS 99, across the street. And I phoned my family. How I wish that Jack's mother had been

alive. She died in 1954. Ginny got her tooth out, and Jack came home by subway — it was a very hot June night — and the phone never stopped ringing all evening. Ray Ludden, an old China hand who was Consul General in Dusseldorf, had heard the great news there and he phoned. The phone just rang and rang and rang.

Q: Of course it did.

SERVICE: And then people wondered if Jack would really go back to the State Department. Actually the Supreme Court decision stated that Jack had never been out of the Foreign Service — never had been out — never should have been out.

Q: In other words the Supreme Court said that his firing was illegal.

SERVICE: Yes, Jack had already won two points in both the lower Court and Court of Appeals. But the decision for his reinstatement came through the Supreme Court. Jack never had any intention of doing anything other than returning to the Foreign Service if he could. Not only for our good name, but because we loved the Foreign Service. I loved the Foreign Service; I think it was a marvelous life. And I think that, well, it was just the only thing we would ever have considered doing.

So we went back and were in Washington two years. Jack had to go through another security clearance. And once again Jack was cleared and he was sent to Liverpool, England. Which doesn't sound like the greatest post in the world, but we loved Liverpool. Jack would probably not use the word “loved,” but that is the way I felt.

Q: Oh, it's a very important port.

SERVICE: Was. Long ago, but no longer. But in one of the parks of Liverpool, near where we lived, we were walking one day and came upon a statue of Columbus. We wondered, “What's Columbus doing in Liverpool?” The marker said: “Columbus, the discoverer of the New World and the maker of Liverpool.” Because it was the New World that made

Liverpool such an important port. American cotton for the mills of Lancashire came through Liverpool. And thousands upon thousands of Irish came through Liverpool on their way to America in the last century. The English thought of entering the Civil War, almost entered the war on the side of the South, to keep the cotton coming in. But they didn't. They sensibly stayed out of our war. But Liverpool had been a booming place up to the Second World War when the port was badly bombed. Liverpool was a very happy post for us. Ginny and Bob were grown and were no longer with us. But Philip was with us and went to Liverpool College, which was a prep school. And Ginny and her husband, Garth McCormick, were married in Liverpool. They came from Washington to be married in Liverpool, in the Ancient Chapel of Toxteth, which dates back to 1619. Members of its early congregations emigrated to America.

And we made so many good friends in Liverpool. I never think of the English as being anything but warm and friendly.

Returning to the Foreign Service was worth all we'd been through. I don't want to get emotional.

Q: No, but it was worth it all to fight it through and come back in.

SERVICE: Oh, absolutely, and for the children too. Our son, Bob, is in the Foreign Service. He and his wife, Karol, have two children, Jennifer and John. Our daughter, Virginia, and her husband, Garth McCormick, have four children, Jessica, Rachel, Caroline (Cailie), and John. Garth is a professor of Applied Mathematics at George Washington University. They live in Chevy Chase.

Q: She's the one I talked to.

SERVICE: Yes, Ginny of course, she's the one you talked to. And Philip has married an angel who is one-quarter Japanese. Kiisa Nishikawa.

Q: And I bet she is lovely.

SERVICE: Yes, she is lovely. Both she and Philip are genetic scientists. Right now Kiisa has a grant at University of California, Berkeley,and Philip has an NIH (National Insititue of Health) grant at University of California, Davis. A long commute for him.

Q: So your life really has turned out very nicely.

SERVICE: Yes, it has. But I really can't emphasize enough how much support, emotional, psychological, and in a few cases pecuniary, we had from friends and family. Oberlin friends were especially helpful and supportive. Oberlin, where we met, has always meant much to us.

Q: And it led up to the Foreign Service.

SERVICE: Yes. We wanted to get married and Jack met some old friends with whom he'd grown up in West China — the Yard sisters — and they said, “Why don't you take the Foreign Service exam?” John Davies had taken the exams and passed. This was during the Great Depression and there weren't that many jobs about.

Q: Of course. Those were in the days when I have been told, young officers were told, yes, there's a job in Prague if you can get to it.

SERVICE: People weren't paid for home leave.

Q: I know.

SERVICE: There was a famous story, I'm not even sure it's true, but it could have been, about a man in Nagasaki who had I don't know how many children. He lived there for years, but he never got home leave.

Q: Because they couldn't afford to move him.

SERVICE: People didn't have home leave for years on end. There wasn't any money.

Q: And did you, all of the moving around, did you just not have many possessions or did you just leave your household things behind and have faith that eventually, as you said, eventually you would get them again.

SERVICE: When we were first married, in Kunming we didn't have any household things. We lived in one wing of the Consulate, a big old Chinese house, the first year we were there with bits and pieces of government furniture. We lived in a house belonging to an English missionary doctor and his wife our second year. They were on home leave. And we used their furniture, and we even had a flush toilet! But it flushed only after the water coolie had carried many buckets of water up to the tank on the roof. No water in the tank, no flush. We finally paid to have a small pump installed with a pipe leading to the tank, and then all the coolie had to do several times a day was pump.

When we were in Peking, and especially in Shanghai, we were able to have some furniture made (by Walnut Joe in Peking), and we began to buy old pieces of Chinese furniture. The Chinese dollar was declining markedly in value which made it easy for Americans to buy things. And in Shanghai we were getting $3,000 a year. We started out in Kunming on $1,800 which was soon reduced to about $1,500 because all government salaries were cut for a year or two because of the Depression. When we went to Peking our salary was $2,500 a year.

When Jack was transferred from Shanghai to Chungking the government sent all of our personal possessions home. And I put them in storage in Berkeley for years because I was living with my parents. When Jack came home in 1945, our effects were shipped East. They were shipped to New Zealand and later to India. But not to Liverpool because there we lived in a great big house owned by the American government. It was a lovely, furnished house, set in a big garden.

Q: Where did you go after Liverpool?

SERVICE: After Liverpool Jack realized that there was simply no real future for him in the Foreign Service. And Jack decided that if he wanted to do anything else he had better retire. We were both fifty-two in 1962 when Jack really retired from the Foreign Service. We came back to Berkeley, and Jack went to the University of California for two years to get an MA in political science. After that he was offered a job at the Center for Chinese Studies at Berkeley and so was finally back in the China field after all those years. And then in 1971, and this is going to be the end of my story...

Q: ...you went back.

SERVICE: ...after ping pong. James Reston went to China in August, and one day in early September the phone rang and a man from the New York Times said to Jack, “You're going to be in James Reston's column tomorrow. You've been invited back to China.” Jack said, “What?” and the man said, “Read James Reston tomorrow,” which of course we did, and I said to Jack, “I hardly call this an invitation. It just says that you and three others would be welcomed back to China.” The others were John Fairbank, John Davies, and, I think, Owen Lattimore. And Jack said, “I'm going to call up the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa.” The United States didn't have diplomatic relations with China.

So Jack called the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa. The Ambassador there was Huang Hua, an old friend from the Chungking-Yenan days. Jack asked about the Reston column, and Huang Hua said that Jack was invited back to China. “Come to Ottawa to get your visa!” I said to Jack, “Look it costs a lot of money to go to Ottawa to get your visa.” But Jack said that he was going. And I said, “Okay, you can get my visa, too, because I'm going with you.”

Jack then called the State Department to be sure it was okay with the State Department if he went back to China, and they said okay. So Jack flew to Ottawa to get our visas, and the next week we were off to China!

And that's where we started this. We went via Hong Kong, took the train to Canton, and then flew to Peking. It was a dreamlike trip. And then when Nixon decided to go to China, that was it. Kissinger went to China twice, I think, in 1971, and then President and Mrs. Nixon went in 1972. Probably no one could have accomplished this opening to China except Nixon and Kissinger.

Q: I don't think the Democrats could have.

SERVICE: They could not have. They would have been absolutely crucified, and I think it's probably the one great thing that Nixon did in his administration.

Q: I've never admired him, but he did open China.

SERVICE: This has been a rather mixed-up tale about Life in the Foreign Service — and out of it.

Q: The thing that intrigues me is that your support came from your friends, and you went along because you adored your husband, not...

SERVICE: I didn't always adore my husband. Sometimes I was mad at him.

Q: Sometimes you were mad at him, but really, it was the relationship between the two of you and the support you got from your friends...

SERVICE: ...and family.

Q: ... that kept you going. You went along in the role of a traditional wife, whereas today the women don't do that. They want their own careers.

SERVICE: Well, Jewell, I never wanted a career. Marriage was the “role” I was interested in, although I didn't think in terms of “roles.” I'm 77 now and I was brought up in the period when marriage was the accepted way of life for most women. And, anyway, after I started going with Jack in Oberlin, our Junior year, I wanted to marry Jack more than anything else.

Q: Marriage was the expectation that was set for us, really.

SERVICE: However I did get a small job when we lived in New York. When you have three children and no private means you cannot just sit down. Bob got a scholarship to go to Oberlin, and Ginny got a scholarship for the first year there. After that the money I earned went into her college. Both Ginny and Bob got summer jobs, which helped with their college expenses. They were wonderful. I never heard them complain because there had been such a radical change in their lives. And, anyway, what do you do? You do what everybody else in this world does mostly, which is just keep going.

Q: Keep going, yes.

SERVICE: I think how do people manage who lose their jobs today? We have unemployment insurance, but after that runs out what do people do? They go on Welfare. But even that doesn't always work. I think it is dreadful that people anywhere in the world today should starve to death.

There is a statement I've heard many times in my life about poor people. That they are stupid and/or they are happy! I heard this in England especially. Now I love England, I'm a true Anglophile, but many of the people we knew had little concern for the people on the bottom: if they were stupid you couldn't do anything for them, and if they were happy, why should you do anything for them? Are we getting more like this in this country? I'm afraid so. It makes me so cross to hear denigrating remarks about unfortunate people. No matter how hard they work, migrant workers for example, there are going to be some people who

are never going to be able to improve their status or their living conditions. This is true of the majority of the people in the world.

Q: In the world, definitely in the Third World. How would we feel if we knew jobs were out there, but we were unqualified and there was no way we could get one.

SERVICE: I'm always surprised at heartlessness. But perhaps it is not heartlessness so much as just the difficulty of identifying with people who are not well off. You've lived in the Third World a lot, haven't you?

Q: A lot. Yes.

SERVICE: More than we have.

Q: Yes. Yes, practically all Third World countries except for Holland, and you can't say that Curacao and Trinidad were really Third World. Because those were islands that had had going economies since the early 20th century. So they were like Mexico, borderline, well, not even as bad as Mexico. But Brazil, northeast Brazil, definitely Third World. Sierra Leone, Morocco, yes and no. It was sad to see the underemployed people who had absolutely no hope. They had nowhere to go.

SERVICE: So what do these people do?

Q: They just live from day to day, and they have no great expectations. But they try to do better for their children. Actually, it's the American dream at a very low level. They don't have our high expectations but they just try to house, clothe, educate and feed their children better than they themselves were. And we have street people who can't even hope to do that. There are growing numbers and we see them in Washington. All the time now.

SERVICE: That's it, and you feel you're up against a wall — that they are up against a wall.

Q: A lot of those people have emotional and mental problems and I did in Washington work with feeding some of them. I went to a feeding program and I think the one thing I learned is that there is not just one general problem with the homeless. This homeless person has a mental problem; this person has a job problem, just can't get a job. This one has another problem, has a record, a prison or drug record, or something. It's not just one homeless problem. It's a lot of problems that need to be dealt with in different ways. I'm not quite sure that we realize that and are dealing with it.

SERVICE: The mental problem. Some of these people should be given some psychiatric help.

Q: Of course they should never have been released from wherever they were. There is very little home support.

SERVICE: I don't know how you deal with something like that. Although individuals can help, you can't do it just with private support. The government has got to give some support to these people in some way.

Q: We have that man, Mitch Schneider, in Washington who has fasted, practically done himself in, but he has finally gotten some money from the federal government and he is rehabilitating a big shelter.

SERVICE: I've read about him.

Q: But shelters aren't always the answer. They become a sort of a jungle.

SERVICE: I think that is almost inevitable.

Q: You had a lot of poor people in China in the '30's. Wasn't there, as there usually is in the Third World, a built-in family social security even though you have nothing to share?

SERVICE: Yes. Chinese family structure has always been extremely strong. But a lot of people in the old China were born on the streets, and they lived on the streets, and they died on the streets.

Q: On the streets, as in India.

SERVICE: Yes. There were so many beggars. But today we have beggars here too. In China foreigners used to say how awful it was that these people should be on the streets. But we thought that is the way it was in China. That the Chinese weren't up to doing things any better. But what we didn't think about was the enormous number of people. At that time about 450,000,000 people. Now there are over one billion. The Chinese are doing a remarkable job in feeding, clothing, and housing this vast number of people. You do see a few beggars today. But it seems to me that I saw no more in Peking or Shanghai than I see in San Francisco. I think that over-population is going to be one of the most threatening aspects of the future we're heading into.

Can we return to wives with their own careers in the Foreign Service today? I'd like to mention my daughter-in-law, Karol. She had her own career before she and Bob were married.

Q: What is her career?

SERVICE: Karol was working for the Department of Labor. She's an economist. She and Bob met in Nicaragua, Bob's first post. Karol was sent to Managua to do a survey on labor conditions in Nicaragua. They didn't marry until two or three years later, after Bob had been in Bahia. Karol is a marvelous Foreign Service wife, but it is not her whole life, as it was with most of us old-time Foreign Service wives.

Q: How does she keep up her career with all of these moves?

SERVICE: She hasn't been able to in Madrid. But in Chile — they were in Santiago — she did contract work for the Department of Commerce. They would send her the raw material of a survey, let us say, and then she'd get it all together and write the report. I think I'm stating this correctly. Bob's next post is to be DCM in Buenos Aires. I don't know if Karol has any plans of her own.

I don't know how I would feel about a career of my own if I were a Foreign Service wife today. I've always been very interested in whatever country I've been in. Especially about the history and the cultural aspects, even more so about the people of the country. I think there are very few substitutes for being genuinely interested in your host country. I don't mean that you've got to do a lot of good works if that's not your nature, or that you've got to tell other people how to run their lives. I think, though, that if you have a real interest in the lives of the people around you that they will understand this and appreciate it.

Q: And I think that people can also quickly perceive if you don't have that interest and compassion and rapport.

SERVICE: Yes, I think so too. You can't compare conditions in countries abroad with the way things are at home. Especially when it comes to Third World and emerging countries.

Q: You take it as it is.

SERVICE: Because you're in a different situation.

Q: You're a guest in the other country, really.

SERVICE: Right. The one place that I did find difficult, at first, was Yunnanfu (Kunming). It was a shock.

Q: It couldn't have been easy.

SERVICE: It was a great shock to me to see how poor and miserable the Chinese were in that backward place. I was not prepared for that. And also Jack had been born and brought up in west China so the things that bothered me did not bother Jack.

Q: Could he understand why you were...

SERVICE: He couldn't, at first, understand my negative reactions to many things that seemed perfectly normal to him. But later on he did. And I began to open my mind and my eyes — to grow up, to be less parochial in my thinking.

This must be one of the great rewards of Foreign Service life — both for Americans as Foreign Service families abroad, and for our foreign friends and hosts.

I'd like to close with a Chinese wish: “Yi Lu Ping An” which means, “May your Road Be Peaceful.”

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BIOGRAPHIC DATA

Spouse: John S. Service

Spouse Entered Service: 1933Left Service: 1962You Entered Service: sameLeft Service: same

Status: Retired Spouse

Posts: 1933-35Kunming, China 1935-37Peking, China 1938-41Shanghai, China 1941-45Chungking, China (JS only) 1945-46Tokyo, Japan (JS only) 1946-48Wellington, New Zealand 1949Washington, DC, Department 1950New Delhi, India (CSS alone

at post) 1951Washington, DC, Department 1951JS dismissed from Foreign Service December 1951 1957Reinstated September 1957 1957-59Washington, DC, Department 1959-62Liverpool, England 1962Retired

Date and place of birth: Kansas City, Missouri, November 30, 1909

Maiden Name: Caroline Edward Schulz

Parents:

Edward Hugh Schulz, Col., Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army

Katherine Julia Muhleman

Schools:

Attended three high schools, graduated Oak Park, Illinois

Oberlin College, BA, 1931

Date and place of marriage: Haiphong, French Indochina, November 9, 1933 and Kunming, China, November 13, 1933

Children:

Virginia Service McCormick

Robert E. Service, FSO

Philip M. Service

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa (Oberlin, 1931)

End of interview